

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A method of managing a secure terminal used for transactions with smart cards, comprising:

detecting placement of a smart card in contact with the terminal,
executing a program by the terminal, said program including sensitive operations related to making the transactions secure,
counting, externally of the smart card, the number of times a request is made to the terminal to execute sensitive operations, and
restricting the action of said terminal when the counted number reaches a predetermined value.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

providing the terminal with a removable electronic security circuit, and
wherein said counting step comprises counting in said security circuit the number of requests for sensitive operations which are made to said security circuit or sensitive operations executed by said security circuit.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

dividing the sensitive operations into a number of classes, and
establishing a count for each class.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a mutual identification procedure between the terminal and the card.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication [[(PIN)]] of a carrier of the smart card.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from a smart card.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further including the step of re-initializing the counted number by a secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or a security circuit.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the counted number is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein for restricting, only secure operations of the executing program are prevented.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) A security circuit for implementing the method according to claim 1, comprising management means that is capable of:

identifying and counting requests coming from outside the security circuit, and
restricting functions of said security circuit as soon as the counted number reaches a predetermined number.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, further comprising:

dividing the sensitive operations into a number of classes and
establishing a count for each class.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a mutual identification procedure between the terminal and the card.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication [[(PIN)]] of a carrier of the smart card.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from a smart card.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein a counter is re-initialized by a secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein a counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein for restricting, only secure operations of the executing program are prevented.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented) A security circuit for implementing the method according to claim 13, comprising management means that is capable of:

identifying and counting requests coming from outside the security circuit, and
restricting functions of the security circuit as soon as the counted number reaches a predetermined number.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein a counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein for restricting, only secure operations of the executing program are prevented.